

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 58

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Edwin Hope Rayson of Oak Ridge.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Edwin Hope Rayson of Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, born on January 13, 1923, in Earlville, Illinois, Mr. Rayson was the eldest of the three children of Dr. Edwin Hope Rayson, Sr., a family physician serving the local community, and Lillian Astley Rayson, a registered nurse; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Earlville Community High School in 1940, Edwin Rayson completed his first year of undergraduate study at Northwestern University, afterward transferring to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT) to study medicine. He was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity while at the university and graduated with honors in 1944; and

WHEREAS, while attending UT, Mr. Rayson entered the officer candidate program of the United States Navy, and upon graduation, he was commissioned as an officer in the Navy, serving as a demolitions expert on Saipan and Okinawa; and

WHEREAS, after his honorable discharge from the Navy in 1946, he returned to UT and entered the College of Law, where he served as a member and president of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity and member of the Order of the Coif; he graduated second in his class in 1948; and

WHEREAS, remaining in Knoxville after graduating from law school, Mr. Rayson, along with his classmate Andrew Johnson, founded the firm of Johnson & Rayson, thus beginning an impassioned law career that spanned over six decades; and

WHEREAS, in March of 1949, Edwin Rayson joined the firm of Kramer, McNabb & Greenwood, becoming a partner the following year; the firm ultimately became known as Kramer Rayson, LLP; and

WHEREAS, between 1951 and 1970, Mr. Rayson was an adjunct professor at UT College of Law, teaching labor and employment law, which were his primary areas of practice; around that same time, he represented the United Mine Workers of America, including in the organization's famous antitrust cases that repeatedly took him to the U.S. Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, during his sixty-five-year career, fifty years of which was spent practicing with his younger brother, John B. Rayson, Edwin Rayson took on the gamut of clients, from the average citizen to Fortune 500 companies. He represented virtually every prime contractor of the Atomic Energy Commission and Department of Energy in Oak Ridge, dating from the Manhattan Project; and

WHEREAS, a founding fellow of the Knoxville Bar Foundation and a member of the Tennessee Bar Foundation, Mr. Rayson received the Governor's Award of the Knoxville Bar Association in 2001, the organization's most esteemed award; he has been listed in every edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* since the publication began, and he was admitted to practice before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rayson was a lifelong and accomplished golfer; he began playing as a young boy on the local course that his father helped build in his hometown. In his later years, he was a two-time senior club champion at Cherokee Country Club; and

WHEREAS, a beloved patriarch whose memory will abide with those who loved and cherished him, Edwin Rayson is survived by his wife of thirty-three years, Sherry Kirkland Rayson; his daughter, Jane Rayson (Butch) Howard; his sons, E. H. "Ned" (Lilly) Rayson III, and Scott (Cary) Rayson; his grandchildren, Mathew and Logan Young and J. D., Hope, Hunter, George, Jack, and Caroline Rayson; and his great-grandchildren, Hayes and Andie Young; and

WHEREAS, a man of integrity who lived a rich, full life, Mr. Rayson leaves behind an indelible legacy that will continue to inspire those who knew him; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of Edwin Hope Rayson and extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.